



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

New Orleans Fire Department  
Charles Parent, Superintendent  
317 Decatur Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** October 18, 2012  
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### **SOUTHEAST SHAKE OUT, EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS**

New Orleans, LA. – The Louisiana Task Force One, an urban search and rescue task force will conduct a training session in support of FEMA's Southeast Shake Out, an earthquake awareness event covering the southeastern section of the country. The New Orleans Fire Department along with numerous other agencies will be participating.

**Date:** Saturday, October 20, 2012  
**Time:** 8:30 am - Noon  
**Place:** Victor Schiro Municipal Training Academy  
13400 Old Gentilly Road at Michoud  
(Next to NASA Facility) New Orleans, LA

The State of Louisiana sits squarely on the New Madrid fault line. The last major earthquakes along this fault occurred from December, 1811 to February, 1812. A small town was obliterated by liquefaction of the ground, the Mississippi River changed course, and a major lake was formed. Casualties were minimal due to the fact that the area was sparsely populated. That situation no longer exists. We are not prepared to face earthquake damage in the way a state such as California is.

The training will be earthquake scenario driven, but there will be 12 stations that will concentrate on specific areas of search and rescue. The stations are Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Structural Collapse Rescue, Helicopter Operations and Concrete/Vehicle Rescue. At the end of the training there will be a group discussion on earthquake preparedness, response, and recovery issues in the State. Other agencies participating in the Southeast Shake out are: Paradis Volunteer Fire Department, Louisiana Air National Guard, United States Coast Guard, Houma Fire Department, Lafourche Parish Fire District #3 and Regional Response Team 6.